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**PENSIONS.**—The Pension bill now before Congress appropriates \$13,250,000; one million and a quarter more than the whole average annual expenses of our government forty years ago under John Quincy Adams; a tax on the country likely, from late experience, to last for fifty years or more to come.

**CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE ON PAGANS.**—It is in the power of Christian nations, in spite of all their unchristian deeds and habits, still to exert, if they would, a benign and far reaching influence upon the heathen. The case of Burlingame in China is a very remarkable case, deeply interesting to the whole world; and we are hearing almost daily of cases somewhat similar upon a smaller scale. Late in 1868 the Mikado of Japan, a country so intensely embittered for centuries against the Christian name, appointed one Paul Frank, formerly a lieutenant in our army, as "chief of the Japanese military forces at a salary of \$12,000 a year." If men calling themselves Christians, were all to act in their intercourse with pagans worthy of their name, they would be honored thus all over the heathen world, and create such a general impression in favor of Christianity as to pave the way everywhere for its easy and speedy introduction. The worst obstacles to the spread of the gospel have ever been, as they still are, found in the unchristian acts and habits of reputed Christians.

**A MILLION MEN AT CALL.**—A Prussian (Berlin) journal says that a telegram at that capital could any moment put a million of troops under arms for instant service. A million, all armed to the teeth with the murderously effective weapons, ready for the work of wholesale butchery and devastation! All this the boasted climax of *Christian* civilization in this nineteenth century?

**ARBITRATION INSTEAD OF WAR.**—This principle, so long and strenuously urged by Peace societies, is gradually coming into use. The South American republics on the Pacific, lately at war with Spain, have accepted the mediation of the United States, and assented to a Congress in which all the belligerents will be represented, to meet at Washington this spring. The boundary disputes of Great Britain and Portugal, touching their African possessions, have also been referred to the United States for solution, and President Johnson has accepted the office of arbitrator on behalf of the United States government. The Mexican Congress has approved the treaty recently concluded with the United States, recognizing the rights of naturalized citizens, and also a convention for the settlement of the claims of citizens of each country against the government of the other.

#### OUR CONTROVERSY WITH ENGLAND.

It seems that our disputes with England, arising out of our late rebellion, are not likely, after all, to be settled at once by her Foreign Secretary and our new Minister, Reverdy Johnson, who was received with so much favor. Be it so, if it must be; but we feel no discouragement or doubt about its finally reaching a peaceful result. Not only so; but this delay is likely, we think, to insure in the end a settlement more satisfactory to both parties, and more beneficial to the general cause of peace, and the welfare of the world. So we can well afford to wait; and meanwhile we shall rest in the assurance, that the parties, and such par-

ties too, can never go to war about the points in dispute. It is too late in the nineteenth century for that, and there is too much common sense, if not too much of our common Christianity in both countries.

Meanwhile we look with great pleasure on the reception lately accorded everywhere to our new Minister alike in public and private, by the government, the press and the people, and the readiness and cordiality with which the two negotiators agreed on the general terms of a full and final adjustment. It is very true that all this does not insure an *immediate* settlement; but it must, with well-nigh moral certainty, exclude all thought of ever appealing to the sword for a decision of the controversy.

We will quote here some things of much interest to our cause that have lately transpired in the progress of these negotiations. The Committee of the Peace Society, "understanding that several questions *besides* those connected with the conflicting claims arising out of the American War, were the subject of negotiation between our own Foreign Minister and the United States Ambassador, — such as the question of naturalization, and that referring to San Juan — and thinking that the arrangement of these might be embodied in separate treaties," addressed a memorial to their own Minister on the subject:

"Presuming," they say, "that negotiations conducted in a spirit so friendly and conciliatory as is known to inspire both your Lordship and his Excellency the Minister of the United States, will issue in the happy and speedy adjustment of the matter in dispute, it is presumed that the results will be embodied in a treaty, or treaties, or some form of contract or agreement, between the two Governments. But experience has proved that treaties themselves, by differences of opinion that may arise as to the interpretation to be put on the provisions they contain, may become the occasion of serious disagreements between nations; and the Committee, therefore, venture respectfully to submit that an Arbitration Clause should be inserted in the new treaty, or treaties, that may be entered into, defining the means for the peaceable solution of such disagreements."

"Happily, there exists more than one precedent for this in previous treaties between Great Britain and the United States. This is especially the case in a treaty between the two Governments relative to Commerce and Navigation, negotiated, as the Committee believe, under your Lordship's auspices, and ratified at Washington, September 9, 1856, which contains clauses providing that, in the event of differences arising between the contracting parties on any matter connected with the treaty, the question in dispute should be referred first to Commissioners, and, in the last resort, to an Arbitrator or Umpire to be mutually chosen, 'the high contracting parties,' such is the language of the treaty, 'solemnly engaging to consider the decision of the Commissioners conjointly, or of the Arbitrator or Umpire, as the case may be, as absolutely final and conclusive, in each case decided upon by them or him respectively.' The Committee earnestly hope, that the same, or a similar clause, may be introduced into any new treaty, or treaties, that may be entered into between Great Britain and the United States."

To this appeal, the British Minister answered by his Secretary: — "Lord Clarendon fully concurs with the Committee in the opinion, that it is desirable to have recourse to arbitration, whenever practicable, for the adjustment of international differences, and is glad to believe that the principle of arbitration is becoming recognized as the most honorable and equitable solution of many difficult and important questions." And in the same strain the American Minister replied: — "In the Convention recently concluded